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25X1

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25X1

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CONTENTS

25X1

Communist China: Peking declares army support is necessary to prevent subversion of new commune-type organizations. (Page 3)

Nonproliferation Treaty: North Atlantic Council members again voice reservations, but do not oppose US-USSR negotiations. (Page 5)

France: De Gaulle may be concerned about outcome of election on 5 March. (Page 6)

Sierra Leone: Coup plotting disclosed

Aden: Egyptian-backed strike

Indonesia: Anti-Sukarno resolution

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/05/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A009600210001-2

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/05/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A009600210001-2

Communist China: Peking's reporting on the new "commune" organizations betrays concern that they may be subverted by anti-Mao forces, and emphasizes that full support of the army is necessary "if power is to be held."

On 8 February Harbin radio gave the first detailed account of the organizational structure of a Paris commune-type body at the provincial level. The new political form, as prescribed for Heilungkiang Province, bears strong similarities to the existing party organization. The announcement suggested that present party leaders of the province who have been "loyal to Mao" will step into command posts; Peking has already praised the former first party secretary.

However, a major purge of the existing provincial party apparatus may be contemplated. The Harbin announcement stated that many positions will go to persons not now in the party apparatus, and that the new organization will be much smaller than the former party committee. It also asserted that party cadres who supported "reactionary" organizations are to be expelled from the party, and members guilty of "political errors" of a less serious nature will be sent to the countryside for labor reform.

Excerpts of a Peking broadcast of 8 February indicate that Heilungkiang will be a model for other areas to follow. This article, described as "very important," was published in all Peking newspapers on 9 February and Peking announced it would broadcast it repeatedly on the 9th. The article asserts that the "key factor of success" in Heilungkiang was cooperation "with the army commander of the region," implying that Maoist "revolutionaries" who have not won out elsewhere lack firm army backing.

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10 Feb 67

3

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In one respect the Heilungkiang example probably will not be typical. There are probably few other provinces where the current first party secretary is acceptable to Maoist leaders.

Heilungkiang was the scene; in August, of the first publicized Red Guard attacks on the party apparatus. Recently, however, there have been few accounts of disorders there, and it has seemed to be a relatively quiet area. Posters seen in Peking before the 31 January "revolutionary" take-over charged that the army was giving only lukewarm support to pro-Mao "rebels" and in some cases was suppressing rebel activities, in what were apparently minor incidents.

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25X1

10 Feb 67

4

Nonproliferation Treaty: Several NATO governments continued to express reservations about the proposed draft nuclear nonproliferation treaty at a meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) on 8 February.

However, none of the NAC members objected to continued US efforts to negotiate such a treaty with the USSR.

During discussion of the proposed draft the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, and Canada expressed approval. Italy, however, did not consider the draft acceptable, and West Germany reiterated its concern over the possible effects that the treaty would have on peaceful uses of atomic energy and Europe's technological development.

Serious difficulty may be developing with the EURATOM Commission over the proposed treaty provision providing for International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) safeguards on peaceful nuclear activities. EURATOM officials argue that acceptance of IAEA controls would be tantamount to accepting eventual dissolution of the EURATOM safeguards system. They also believe that France would no longer cooperate within the EEC on the peaceful industrial uses of nuclear energy if the other five members agreed to accept IAEA safeguards.

Although the views of the EURATOM Commission will in the end be less important than those of the EEC member governments, some of those now more favorably disposed to the treaty may be influenced by the commission.

25X1

10 Feb 67

5

*France: De Gaulle's short speech of 9 February may have been intended as a veiled threat to dissolve a hostile National Assembly.

This threat is implicit in his statement that a "coherent and constant" majority in the assembly--such as the Gaullists now enjoy--is "absolutely necessary" if France is to avoid "disastrous ruination." By emphasizing the responsibility of the chief of state to ensure the "regular operation of the powers of the Republic," he appears to be preparing in advance his defense for action against a recalcitrant majority.

De Gaulle's apparent belief that such a stand is necessary now indicates a degree of concern that Gaullist chances for victory in the 5 March elections are not as rosy as government spokesmen publicly maintain. The election campaign does not officially begin until 12 February. The general evidently hopes by this move to bring into the Gaullist camp the unusually high number of "undecided" voters revealed by recent polls. The gambit could prove dangerous, however, since opposition parties can be expected to seize on it as a blatant attempt to dictate to the electorate.

25X1

* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

10 Feb 67

6

NOTES

Sierra Leone: Prime Minister Margai, after several days of indecision, finally placed under house arrest eight army officers allegedly involved in coup plotting uncovered a week ago. At the same time he announced to the out-going Parliament that he was abandoning his proposal to set up a one-party state--a plan that has been strongly resisted by opposition elements. By appearing to be both firm and conciliatory, Margai has enhanced his party's chances in the general elections coming up within two months.

25X1

Aden: A general strike called for tomorrow is likely to be marked by violent demonstrations and more terrorism. The strike was called by the Egyptian-backed Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY) against the South Arabian Federation Government. FLOSY will probably try to paralyze Aden in an attempt to regain ground lost to a rival anti-British organization which on 19 January called a successful general strike without FLOSY participation.

25X1

Indonesia: The anti-Sukarno resolution passed yesterday by Parliament paves the way for Congress, which includes Parliament, to take formal action to oust Sukarno. Public demands for congressional action against Sukarno have been increasing, and early this week General Nasution, the chairman of Congress, promised that the demands would be implemented. The latest move was designed primarily to increase the pressure on Sukarno to resign before 6 March, when Congress is scheduled to meet.

25X1

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10 Feb 67

7

25X1

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25X1



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